

To: Daguiard, Robert[Daguiard.Robert@epa.gov]
From: Palmer, Brian
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 2:47:55 PM
Subject: Re: Gold King Mine inquiry

Hi Robert,

Thanks for your quick response. How much time do you need? I can always beg my editors for more time.

The big question is: How do you inspect a mine? Do you just walk in with a flashlight and look for cracks?

I realize that's pretty broad, so here are some sub-questions:

- 1) What sort of preparatory work is done in advance of a mine inspection?
- 2) What are the tools of the mine inspection trade?
- 3) What exactly is a mine inspector looking for when he or she heads into a mine?
- 4) How long does a mine inspection take?
- 5) How many inspectors are involved in a typical inspection?
- 6) What role does the mine owner play?
- 7) How often do inspections occur?
- 8) What's the pass/fail rate?
- 9) Are we getting better at inspecting mines? (I've done some Google Books research, and there are articles from the 19th century complaining about how our mine inspection system is "entirely inadequate."² So this seems to be a long-running controversy.)

There will be some others depending on where the conversation goes.

Thanks again for your help.

Brian

On 8/17/15, 10:38 AM, "Daguiard, Robert" <Daguiard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

>Hullo Brian,

>

>We'd be happy to help, but we may very well not be able to meet your
>deadline, based on the sheer number of inquiries we still have to respond
>to in the wake of the Gold King Mine spill. Perhaps we will, but I just
>wouldn't work on that assumption. I mean, we had people posting
>statements at 2:30 AM last Wednesday.

>

>Is there any way you could extend your deadline?

>

>In the meantime - and just to help determine who to send your query to,
>as routing is a BIG part of our response process - would you send me a
>list of questions? That would be a huge help.

>

>Let me know. Give me a buzz if you want to discuss. Again, we're happy to
>help, but it may take a little while.

>

>Thanks, R.

>

>

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>-----Original Message-----

>From: Palmer, Brian [mailto:bpalmer@nrdc.org]

>Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 10:19 AM

>To: Press

>Subject: Gold King Mine inquiry

>

>Hello,

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>I'm a journalist with onEarth magazine, a publication of the Natural

>Resources Defense Council. I'd like to write an explanatory piece on a

>basic question: How do government mine inspectors do their jobs? In all

>the coverage of the Gold King Mine incident, I don't feel this has been

>adequately addressed.

>

>Is there someone at EPA available to talk me through this basic process?

>I'm on a deadline of tomorrow (Tuesday) at 2 pm Eastern time. You can

>reach me at this email or at 212-727-4643.

>

>Thanks very much for your help.

>

>Brian